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July 29, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Reply Comments for IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As a former state legislator having the honor of representing rural Arizona, I would like to ask that you support the expansion of broadband wireless. After all, high-speed Internet access has become a fundamental part of economic success, and rural America has fallen on the wrong side of the “digital divide.” Without the expansion of broadband, rural communities like ours will only face more poverty, unemployment and shrinking economic options.

The good news is that LightSquared has been working to improve connectivity in rural communities. In fact, LightSquared plans to invest \$14 billion in deploying a network that combines satellite service with a terrestrial-based broadband wireless network. This would enable many small service providers that serve “niche” markets in rural areas access to LightSquared’s wholesale rates, meaning they could enter the wireless broadband market without building their own networks.

Unfortunately, LightSquared’s plans have been stalled by complaints about interference with GPS receivers. LightSquared’s recently announced proposal to solve 99.95% of these issues for devices in use today and has offered to underwrite and help develop a technological fix for the remaining 200,000 devices. In fact, the media has reported that their engineers have already started doing so proactively. Therefore, I ask that the Federal Communications Commission support this plan so that rural Americans, like those in our communities, can benefit from this important new technology and its impact on poverty, unemployment, and economic opportunities.

Sincerely,


Manny Alvarez